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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Increased Chinese Communist and North Vietnamese Capabilities to Track OXCART Missions

General Carter's oral report to the Board on this subject in executive session at the 21 September USIB meeting is summarized in the following statement:

The Director, NSA, advised the Board that the Chinese Communist Air Surveillance Facilities have continued to increase their capability to track OXCART missions over North Vietnam since the program began on 31 May 1967. On the last mission of 17 September, DRV Air Surveillance Facilities and two DRV SAM sites tracked the aircraft for the first time. The SAM sites were unsuccessful, however, in their search by the FAN SONG radar. On 18 September, SIGINT also detected a practice tracking exercise in Hsian Air Defense District of Far West China, simulating an OXCART mission from the northern Burma border to Lop Nor, Shuang-Cheng-Tzu, Lanchou and back to the original point on the Burmese border. Similar simulated tracking of U-2 flights have been seen since the beginning of that program over China. We can anticipate continued improvement in the tracking capability of both the CHICOMs and the DRV against the OXCART aircraft, with the consequent threat from SAM facilities.

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

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